the major delays, and this has resulted in pushing up the percentage. As regards the percentage, I would also like to inform the hon. Member, that whereas, in 1988, this percentage was very high, 64 per cent, now, it is 34 per cent, and if we take into account the cost escalation consequent to inflation, consequent to the increase in excise duty and customs duty, consequent to interest rate changes and the exchange rate fluctuations, then the cost escalation comes to only 17 per cent. We are not satisfied even with 17 per cent. We would like to reduce it to zero. But there are certain circumstances which are beyond the control of the Project Development Authorities.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Recommendations of Experts Committee on Marketing Strategy by KVIC

*61. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recommendations of Experts Committee to strengthen marketing strategy were not acted upon by the KVIC;

(b) whether trading units having an investment of Rs. 89.57 crores were running in losses; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken against the CEO and CAO of KVIC for not implementing the said recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) No, Sir. The Expert Committee which was constituted in 1997 on marketing of KVI products submitted its recommendations in January, 1998 and most of the recommendations made by this Expert Committee have already been accepted.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Since the major recommendations of the Report have been accepted by the KVIC, the question of taking action agaisnt the CEO/CAO of the KVIC does not arise.

WLL Service in Karnataka

*63. SHRI K.G. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to launch Wireless Local Loop (WLL) service by the Department of Telecommunications in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the details of the cities proposed to be covered under WLL service?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. BSNL has proposed to launch WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) in both urban and rural areas of Karnataka Telecom Circle as per the details given below:-

(i) **Urban:**

Sl. No.	Name of city	No. of Lines	Status
1.	Bangalore	5000	Commissioned on 29.9.2001
2.	Bangalore	Expansion by 20,000 Lines (5,000 to 25,000)	Proposed during the year 2002
3.	Mysore	10,000	Proposed during the year 2002

(ii) **Rural:**

There is a proposal to provide Village Public Telephones (VPTs) and scattered telephone lines in rural areas by WLL system. 27 Base Stations of 500 lines each have been allotted to Karnataka circle for the current year for providing WLL service. The details of Base Station sites are given in the Statement.

Statement

Details of Base Stations

Sl. No.	Site for Base Station in Karnataka
1	Channapatna
2	Doddaballapur
3	Hoskote
4	Kanakapura
5	Ramanagaram
6	Allur
7	Belur

Sl. No.	Site for Base Station in Karnataka
8	H.N. Pura
9	Hassan
10	Sakleshpura
11	Bagepalli
12	Bangarpet
13	Chickballapur
14	Kolar
15	Malur
16	C.R. Nagar
17	Gundlupet
18	H.D. Kote
19	Kollegal
20	T. Narsipura
21	C.N. Halli
22	Koratagere
23	Mabhugiri
24	Pavagada
25	Sira
26	Tiptur
27	Turuvekere

Fishermen held in Sri Lanka

†*65. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian fishermen were held for fishing in Sri Lankan waters;

(b) if so, the number thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.